

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 RSR-01 /120 W
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R 171658Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2603

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22140

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, CB, LA

SUBJECT: SVN "THIRD FORCE" LEADERS ATTEMPT TO ATTEND
ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

1. SOUTH VIETNAMESE "THIRD FORCE" LEADER HO THONG MINH INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT A WAY FOR HIMSELF AND NGUYEN HUU CHAU TO ATTEND THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS. SINCE GVN PASSPORTS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY ALGERIA AND IT WAS "OUT OF THE QUESTION" TO USE PRG DOCUMENTATION, MINH HAD CONTACTED SOUVANNA PHOUMA (THROUGH LAO AMBASSADOR IN PARIS, KHAMPHAN PANYA) IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET LAO DOCUMENTATION FOR THE TRIP TO ALGIERS. MINH HOPED FOR OBSERVER STATUS, BUT WOULD BE CONTENT IF THEY COULD MERELY BE PRESENT IN ALGIERS DURING CONFERENCE TO SEE SOME HIGHER RANKING PRG FIGURES AND PARTICULARLY TO TALK WITH SIHANOUK AND PENN NOUTH. MINH COMMENTED THAT HE KNEW PENN NOUTH RATHER WELL AND CHAU WAS A CLASSMATE OF SIHNAOUK'S AND HAD REMAINED ON GOOD TERMS WITH HIM.

2. MINH THOUGHT THAT THROUGH CONTACTS WITH THE KHMERN THE SVN "THIRD FORCE" COULD HELP WORK OUT WHAT COULD BE A SOLUTION ENCOMPASSING A POLITICAL RESOLUTION PROVIDING
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A ROLE FOR THE "THIRD FORCE" IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HE SPOKE

VAGUELY OF A PACKAGE DEAL WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE "NEUTRAL" LAO SOLUTION BEING SPREAD TO CAMBODIA THROUGH THE RETURN OF SIHANOUK (WITH HANOI RESTRAINING THE KHMER COMMUNISTS), AND A POLITICAL EVOLUTION IN SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH BROUGHT SOME "MORE NEUTRAL" FIGURE (SUCH AS DUONG VAN 'BIG' MINH) TO THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD. MINH SAID THAT HE WOULD INFORM BOTH GVN AND PRG REPRESENTATIVES OF HIS TRIP IF HE CAN WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS.

3. EMBOFF EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT RLG WOULD BE ABLE, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME, TO FIND A MEANS OF FACILITATING SVN "THIRD FORCE" ATTENDANCE AT ALGIERS CONFERENCE.

4. COMMENT. MINH NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAD NOT BEEN ACTIVE RECENTLY, AND HAD MADE NO PROGRESS TOWARD FORMING AN EXECUTIVE BODY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ALGIERS TRIP IS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE MINH/CHAU CLAIM TO A LEADERSHIP ROLE WITHIN THE COMMITTEE AND WITHIN THE "THIRD FORCE" AS A WHOLE.
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